

## BIG CELEBRATION AT VESTABURG

Baseball, Side Shows, Horse Races, Balloon, Etc., Features of Field Day.

## VILLAGE ENTERTAINS 2,000

Good Order Maintained Despite Big Crowds and Much Hilarity Tuesday Evening.

Vestaburg celebrated last Thursday as she never has before, in fact as no small central Michigan town has ever celebrated. A most orderly crowd of two thousand people bailing from every conceivable corner of Montcalm and west Gratiot counties, gathered there for a Field Day celebration which was inaugurated by a few of the enterprising business men of the town, and had the time of their lives. Two bands, a baseball game, the Lashaw Players, track and field events, horse races, two balloon ascensions and innumerable side shows, were some of the features of the day of entertainment.

The footraces were held in the morning. In connection with these there were held a fat man's race, potato races, etc. There was enough entertainment entailed in the running off of these events to have repaid people coming a long way to see them. In the afternoon the Twin City baseball team recruited from the ranks of baseball talent claiming either Elm Hall or Riverdale as their home, essayed to lower the colors of the Vestaburg team. In trying to accomplish this noble purpose they failed but failed with honor. The score which is fairly indicative of the comparative playing strength of the two teams, was eight to six in favor of Vestaburg. This victory went to swell the total of a long string of victories. In the last thirteen games Vestaburg has been returned a winner no less than twelve times. This is a record of which the best team in the country might well be proud. Of course in Brown they have one of the cleverest pitchers in the amateur game around that part of the country, even as a high school hurler he had an enviable reputation. However, he has not been wanting in capable support and good hitting behind him. As a whole the team would probably give the semi-professional teams of the state something more than a short argument on the diamond. In the game against the Twin City team, Thorpe caught a good game for Vestaburg.

The amiable Del Hicks was on the mound for the Twin City outfit with Savoy catching. Del started playing baseball about the time most good Republicans were casting their first votes for Lincoln, and he is still at it, and probably will be until his youngest grandchild takes him out of the game bodily, and consigns him to the bleachers; but he still managed to lob the ball over the platter in a most satisfactory manner. A few misplaced errors tended to annul some of his best efforts, but in spite of that he held the slugging Vestaburg players within the bonds of conservative hitting.

Following the ball game, the result of which left everyone in good humor except the unfortunate visitors from Elm Hall and Riverdale and their sympathizers, the first balloon ascension was made. This was successful in every size shape and manner. It rose a full thousand feet straight up into the air. In fact, it rose so straight that there were a lot of mighty sore necks in the crowd by the time the ball-on reached terra firma again. It alighted in a spot about eighty rods from where it arose.

About this time there was some horse racing going on. The talented horseflesh was nearly all home grown and the interest in the result was at fever heat most of the time. The feature race was a half mile free-for-all with four horses entered. Flora Key driven by Lee Shafer, managed to get under the wire for first place in every heat, but she did not make it without a severe struggle with a little mare driven by Jack Johnson of Elm Hall. In the second heat the latter mare came within a half head of nosing out the ultimate victor. It was so close that many backers of the defeated

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## COOKING SCHOOL AT M.E. CHURCH

After the hundred ladies had left the Methodist church Wednesday afternoon, audibly cogitating the new ideas in pastry manipulation, the genial Miss Bingham, who has charge of the cooking school, 'set us down' to a 'plain chocolate cake with marshmallow icing'. Since then we have been thoroughly converted to Free Domestic Science Lectures ideas promulgated by the KC Baking Powder people. We have sent our wife, sisters, aunts and all other female relatives to attend the afternoon lectures at the Methodist church. Perhaps they can make as good chocolate cake some day. If they can we will let them take a hand at 'pineapple cake', 'nut bread', 'Lady Baltimore cake' and 'lemon pie'. Miss Bingham is doing a little missionary work in the culinary line. We are no cannibals, but the most receptive dietary heathen in the world.

The attendance is on the increase every day. The ladies of Alma, are responding finely to the splendid opportunity of instruction in cooking given by Miss Bingham. The lectures will continue through tomorrow and Saturday. See the ad. elsewhere in this paper.

## ENTERTAINMENT APPRECIATED

## Mt. Pleasant Tourists Loud in Praises of Alma Hospitality During Visit.

"Thirty-five business men of Mt. Pleasant went to Alma, Wednesday forenoon, took dinner at the Wright hotel, and at one o'clock, made an inspection of the Republic Motor Truck Company's plant, and were given as complete a surprise as any of them have had in a long time. Although sister cities, within about twenty miles of each other, while we knew that the pretty little city was forging ahead commercially and at a rapid pace, few knew the reason; while it was generally known that Alma possessed a few live spirits, some progressive men, and a limited number of good industries, but few realized the proportions the Republic Truck Company is assuming. This institution started about two years ago on a capital of \$12,000; Today it has a plant which employs 250 men, and is turning out ten completed auto trucks per day, and cannot meet the demands. The result is that they are about to increase the capacity and intend before January 1st, next, to be giving employment to 500 men, and they'll do it too, and it doesn't take a seer or a son of a prophet to foretell the successful climax of their enterprise.

The Mt. Pleasant visitors were very courteously received by the men at the head of the institution, and a visit to every department of the busy place was made not only interesting but instructive.

We have certainly got to take off our hats to Alma.

This visit was a sort of stimulus to the men from Mt. Pleasant and not one present who didn't return with the avowed intention of putting his shoulder to the wheel and pushing for something in the line of progress for Mt. Pleasant and the The Courier is pleased to announce that the heaven is working.

After the visit to the auto factory the whole company was driven to the home of Senator King, who, by the way is president of the Republic Truck Co., and here again awaited a surprise. Within the corporate limits of the city in fact within a half dozen blocks of the business center, on a block comprising 2 1-8 acres, is a home, which with its surroundings, is as suggestive of what one could imagine the garden of Eden to have been, as the mind can determine. It is said to be the most beautiful and artistic of any home grounds in Michigan, and it is a certain thing that none can excel them. Mrs. Francis King, wife of the Senator who is president of a Woman's National Posa Association with some sort of a long title, is the presiding genius over these home grounds and the magic of her art, of her knowledge of flowers, is reflected in every shade, color, perfume and transcendent beauty of the place.

We dislike to say it, for fear that it may swell Alma's head, but that city sure has a garden that has the mythical one of Eden, as the immortal T. R. would put it, "Skinned to a frazzle."—Isabella County Courier.

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR HONOR ALMA MAN

Ninety Knights From Central Michigan Gather at Montigel Home.

## BRILLIANT TOASTS DELIVERED

Masonic Order Enjoys Delightful Social Evening at Home of Mr. and Mrs. Montigel.

Knights Templar, Ninety strong, from Alma, St. Louis, Mt. Pleasant, Ithaca, Farwell, Clara and Shepherd, conveyed in a long procession of automobiles gathered at the home of Sir Knight J. M. Montigel, Friday evening for one of the finest social events of the summer. The former Mayor was at once the host and the guest of honor and to him were accorded the honors and hospitality of the evening.

The procession was headed by Eminent Commander Sir Fred L. Broughton of Ithaca. Proceeding down the street it made a very attractive sight.

The Alma knights had met their visitors in front of the Union School building and together they drove to the former Mayor's home. There they were greeted by the host and hostess. After all had entered Sir Knight Cyrus B. Gardner, who acted in the capacity of toastmaster, explained the purpose of the gathering. His introductory remarks were as follows:

Fraters and Friends:—For the benefit of those who are uninformed I will point out as briefly as possible the significance of this little informal gathering. Our object is really two fold. Firstly, for a considerable time there has been a feeling among the members of Ithaca Commandery Knights Templar No. 40 that something should be done to indicate to Sir Knight Montigel that we are neither unmindful of his worth as a citizen nor are we unappreciative of his work within our ranks. This knightly gathering is therefore the outward manifestation and expression of that sentiment. In addition to our desire to express our appreciation of veneration for and fidelity to this valorous member of our Order which he has so unswervingly and so faithfully served we wish, secondly, to remind Frater Montigel that a too strict application to the details of business have a tendency to both warp the soul and undermine the physical fitness. We would not have our beloved Frater emulate the Shakespearean character who looked upon the world as a stage—a place where every man must play a part and his a sad one. Of late some members of our Sacred Order think the Knight whom we have come to honor has had a "lean and hungry look". I am not able to verify nor vouch for the truthfulness of this assertion but if it be true it is a dangerous condition. It seems that at the coming Chautauqua a certain Doctor Barker is to lecture under the Caption: How to live a hundred years. I have been requested to commend this to Sir Knight Montigel's attention. After this word of warning we trust there will be no further cause for our anxiety and that in the future our Sir Knight will make his life a happy mixture of work and play—an abundance of fun and frolic to act as buffers against the trials and vexations which are of necessity the concomitant incidents of a busy and well rounded life. Besides coming here to fraternize and have a jolly good time, we have arranged for Sir Knight's delectation a little program of music song and story.

Following this he called upon Sir Knights Duell, Mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Sir Knight Henry Montague, head of the Michigan Masonic Home, Sir Knight John T. Mathews of Ithaca, and Sir Knight Van Leuven of St. Louis.

A musical program of unusually high quality was then given. Beautiful solos were then given by John Chick, Miss Mary Sharp, Mrs. Benjamin Hubbard, and Mrs. Edward Mey, featured the program. Miss Sadie Messenger accompanied the soloists. Refreshments were served about the middle of the program. At

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## ILLINOIS PICNIC AUGUST 21st

The annual Illinois picnic will be held at Wright Park, in this city, Saturday, August 21st. Basket dinners will be served at noon. In the afternoon a fine program of speech making, music and sports will be given.

There are a large number of former Illinois farmers in the surrounding counties and their annual picnic is one of the big social events of the summer. The committee which has the arrangements in charge is planning to make the 1915 roundup the most enjoyable ever held, and that will be a hard task too.

Every Illinois man, woman or child is cordially invited to take in the big picnic on the 21st.

## NOTICE

An Epworth League Sub District rally will be held in the Riverdale M. E. church, Saturday afternoon, at 2:30 and all day Sunday. All young people of Riverdale, Sumner Center, Elm Hall, Elwell and Alma, are cordially invited to be present.

## MOTORCYCLE RACES AT TOLEDO SUNDAY AUGUST EIGHTH

On Sunday, August 8th, the Ann Arbor Railroad will run a cheap excursion to Toledo, giving Michigan people an excellent opportunity to witness the motorcycle races, in which some of the fastest riders in America will compete. Take Dorr Street car direct to grounds.

Special train will leave Alma, at 6:01 a.m. Fare for the round trip \$1.75. 1899-48

## COAL COMPANY ORGANIZED

## Alma Concern Started Under Most Favorable Circumstances Saturday.

Alma's first wholesale and retail coal company was organized by several enterprising business men, with a capital of \$10,000.00 and business experience behind it worth something more. It is to be known as the Little Rock Coal Co. The purpose of the new company is to furnish coal wholesale and retail and to make Alma a coal distributing center. The personnel of the officers and stockholders is sufficient guarantee of the high standing which the company will maintain. As organized Saturday night the President will be J. D. Sullivan; Vice President, J. H. McKinney; Manager, Secretary and Treasurer, George S.



George S. Blesch

Blesch. The stockholders are R. A. Madden, J. H. McKinney, Vern Bamberg, Angus K. McDonald, G. S. Blesch and J. D. Sullivan, all of whom are members of the board of directors.

The new company will handle all kinds of coal and coke, both wholesale and retail. The offices will be located at the foot of Park avenue on Mechanic street. The sheds also will be located there. The work of constructing these new buildings will be started immediately.

The company has purchased mining stock in the Huntington Mine, No. 4 at Huntington, West Virginia. Mr. Osboth, an expert mining engineer, will have charge of the West Virginia

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## Alma Chautauqua Opens Tuesday

## Third Annual Week of Entertainment Far Outclasses Previous Efforts. Civic League Sells Tickets.

Alma's biggest and best Chautauqua will begin Tuesday afternoon, August 10th and continue through Tuesday August 17th. It is to be the biggest because more entertainments have been secured, more tickets have been sold, bigger crowds will be present, because it is an 'eight-day' Chautauqua and not a 'five or six-day' one. It is to be the best because the talent comprising the entertainment is of the highest quality to be secured in Chautauqua work. Last year's Chautauqua was good; this year's will be infinitely better. This is not simply because Alice Nielson, the prima donna, is to be here, but it is because not only Alice Nielson but Thomas Brooks Fletcher, Sylvester Long, the Savranoffs, Frank Dixon, William Owen and Company, Pallaria and his band and a score of other headliners in the entertainment world have been secured for the Alma Chautauqua. To boast its quality and quantity it not necessary, but to make a few vital suggestions concerning the seat sale is imperative.

The ladies of the Civic League have undertaken the sale of season tickets. They have guaranteed to sell seven hundred tickets at two dollars and a half a piece. That number of tickets will be sold, of course. When the Civic League will do a job, it will do it. But they want to do up the job with a little finesse. They want and need money to carry out their League work, the details of which are known to everyone in Alma—viz, "To make Alma a better place to live in." The proceeds of all the tickets they sell over seven hundred goes into the league treasury. Do you get the point? Buy your season tickets and buy them immediately. Do not wait to buy derives no benefit from the sale of these. Indirectly, it is your loss if you do not buy from the Civic League.

By buying season tickets the average cost of the entertainments is twelve and one half cents. The cost of single admission to the Chautauqua will be seven dollars and a half. The advantages of buying the season tickets are obvious.

If the Chautauqua management went to add a final word about the forthcoming Chautauqua week here, it would be: "Don't miss the opening day's program." Many who have heard Sylvester Long's lecture say that it alone is worth the price of a season ticket, and the concert of the Music Makers is one of the hits of the week.

Quite naturally, on the theory that "first impressions are lasting" the management would aim to make the opening day of the Chautauqua one of which praises would resound throughout the week. It is one of the real inspirational days when every one goes home with a spirit of enthusiasm and good cheer as well as assurance of the good things that are to follow.

Sylvester Long who was chosen to deliver the first lecture of the program is a man of large experience. He has spoken in every state in the union. In fact few men have faced more Chautauqua audiences than the one who sounds the key note of the great de luxe program. He has several lectures and the purpose of each is to develop the community spirit. He says just the things you want to know in a way you never can forget them.

There is an indescribable effectiveness about Long's platform utterances. He has a compelling beauty of diction as well as strength of argument. Without an unnecessary word every sentence is crisp and refreshing.

The bureau's choice is selecting an opening day speaker has already been vindicated in nearly one hundred towns and cities where the Chautauquas have appeared.

Mr. Long speaks briefly on the opening afternoon and delivers one of his regular lectures in the evening. The music of the opening day, both afternoon and evening, is furnished

by the Music Makers Quartet heretofore referred to. This quartet is one of the oldest male quartets in point of service on the Lyceum and Chautauqua platform, and their programs this summer are pleasing more people than ever before. The blending of the four voices has attained the degree of finish only reached after years of singing together.

The program of the afternoon is opened by a group of quartet selections. "The Bugle Horn" of Seebeck's is a number in which the romp of the hunt has most carefully been portrayed by the composer. Mr. Garrett, the first tenor, shows the ringing clearness of his high tones to a good advantage throughout this song.

Mr. Huff the baritone, next gives, in his pleasing manner, a group of songs. He has reached most favorable comment upon his interpretation of the "Requiem" by Sidney Homer, and "Mother O'Mine" by Tours.

The ensemble work upon the marimbaphone is very interesting. The tones of the marimbaphone are beautiful. An interesting fact is that the atmospheric and barometric conditions effect the notes. On hot days it is necessary to lower the temperature by covering them with oil cloth, upon which is placed chipped ice and damp cloths. An electric fan is placed at one end and forces the air the full length of the machine, causing evaporation which assists in the cooling. In this manner, the temperature may be lowered several degrees, and the total effect may be kept almost normal.

Following this group on the marimbaphone, Mr. Garrett, tenor, sings, "His voice, which is particularly adapted to numbers requiring the soft melodious quality, is perhaps most popular in "Killarney." Many times, he is recalled, and in his unassuming way, carries away the audience with the refrain of "My Wild Irish Rose."

Mr. Swingley, the bass, has a smooth, even voice, velvety in quality, and sings "The Sword of Farrara," by Bullard, with dramatic fire and interpretation.

The "Waltz from Faust" and the "Pizzicati from Sylvia," are next played upon the marimbaphone.

Mr. Huff is enjoyable in his readings, portraying the youngster of eight years in a vivid and homely way. His little story about the dog "Bruce" never fails to bring forth laughter and applause.

Then there are forty minutes more with the Music Makers in a lighter vein, in the evening with the footlights, and changes of costumes.

An ensemble number in which the piano is used, gives variety of a military style.

As a climax to the evening prelude the boys have very cleverly burlesqued a ladies' quartet. As the boys bid the audience "good-night," the vociferous applause always calls them back for at least one farwell song.

The Music Makers will never be forgotten for their readiness to respond to encores, and the delightful way in which they entertain their audiences.

## PROGRAM

### Tuesday—Afternoon

Introductory Exercises  
Grand Concert The Music Makers  
Admission 25 cents Children 15 cents

### Tuesday—Evening

Concert The Music Makers  
Lecture, "Hungry People" Sylvester A. Long.  
Admission 35 cents Children 15 cts.

### Wednesday—Afternoon

Concert The Savranoffs  
Interpretative Reading, "The Man From Home" Wells Watson Ginn  
Admission 25 cents Children 15 cts.

### Wednesday—Evening

Concert The Savranoffs  
Lecture, "Taking Stock of a Town" Frank Dixon  
Admission 35 cents Children 15 cts

### Thursday—Morning

Lecture, "The Finest of the Fine Arts" Dr. Charles E. Barker  
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## TRUSTEES SELECT NEW PRESIDENT

Henry Means Crooks, President Albany College, Ore., Succeeds T. C. Blaisdell.

## OREGON RECORD ENVIABLE

Acceptance of Brilliant Educator and Executive Expected Though Not Yet Received.

Henry Means Crooks, A.B., president of Albany College, Albany Oregon, was elected to the presidency of Alma College by the Board of Trustees at the college meeting, in special session, Wednesday afternoon, to succeed Dr. Thomas C. Blaisdell, who resigned last May, to accept a deanship in Penn State college, Pennsylvania. Fifteen of the Trustees were present and their decision was unanimous. Mr. Crooks is a graduate of Wooster University, Ohio, was selected over twenty other candidates, upon the unusually fine recommendations of educators, business and professional men and ministers who were familiar with his work at Albany College, but principally upon the fine record which he has made during his stay at Albany college. Albany is the Presbyterian Synodical College of Oregon. Ten years ago when Mr. Crooks went to the college, as its president, it was pretty badly run down. A discouraging number of students attended it and the endowment did not meet the running expenses of the institution. The college boasted nothing which would attract students or money to it. It was the typical denominational college run down at the heel. He has stayed ten years and the words of Dr. McKenzie of the College Board of Education expresses most clearly the results which he has obtained, "He took Albany College at zero and brought it up to first class condition."

The one quality which appealed to the Board strongly was his great executive ability.

The splendid management of his college, both from an intellectual and business standpoint testifies to his ability along these lines. He did not seek the presidency of Alma college; in fact, he did not even apply for it but the attention of the Board was attracted to his work and its results by Dr. J. H. Boyd of Portland, Oregon, Dr. E. P. Hill of Chicago, Dr. W. H. Faulkes of Philadelphia and Secretary McKenzie of the College Board of New York.

He aroused the interest of James J. Hill the multimillionaire in his college and the latter responded with a gift of fifty thousand dollars. In the same way he attracted a large number of prominent business and financial men. One and all contributed to the endowment of the college. This rose from nothing to over two hundred thousand, and at the meeting of the Board of Trustees in June it was indicated that the endowment would be greatly increased in the near future by further and larger gifts.

Mr. Crooks is married and has three children and if he should accept the presidency of Alma College he will move here not earlier than November of this year. No indication has been made to the Board of Trustees of this college whether he will accept or not though they rather anticipate that he will.

Prior to his period of years at Albany college that institution had been headed by thirteen different presidents in about thirty years. If there is any virtue in remaining in office the palm must go to Mr. Crooks for his ten-year stay.

Dr. Blaisdell will continue as President of the college until about the first of September. He will move with his family to his new location in about two weeks. Upon his departure Dr. James M. Barkley of Detroit, chairman of the Board of Trustees, will be acting president and will be called to Alma, as occasion demands. The heads of the departments and members of the faculty will care for their various departments in so far as the other interests of the college are not concerned.